FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 9/17/75

DOUGLAS LAVELLE JACKSON, Patrolman, Badge 1410, Dallas Police Department (PD), home address 1426 Ridgeview Street, Mesquite, 285-7026, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and provided the following information:

JACKSON advised he has been an officer with the Dallas PD for 18 years and is presently assigned as an Accident Investigator with the Traffic Division. In November, 1963, JACKSON was assigned as a motorcycle officer, also with the Traffic Division. On the morning of November 22, 1963, JACKSON was advised that he would be acting as an escort for the motorcade of President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY. JACKSON advised he was given his specific assignment by the Traffic Division Commander, Captain LAWRENCE, after arriving at Dallas Love Field Airport. He was assigned to ride as a motorcycle escort officer to the right rear of the Presidential car, along with Dallas Police Officer JAMES CHANEY.. His specific location was to be adjacent to the rear bumper of the Presidential car, to the immediate right of Officer CHANEY. On the left side of the Presidential car, Officers BOBBY HARGIS and B. J. MARTIN would be in the same relative position. The escort was to consist of Sergeant STEVE ELLIS at the point position, with four motorcycle officers directly behind him, followed approximately one block by an automobile containing Dallas Police Chief CURRY, and other dignitaries. Directly behind this automobile was to be the Presidential limousine, followed by a Secret Service car. Behind the Secret Service car was a motorcycle escort and several press cars. JACKSON advised he did not know the identity of all the officers involved in the escort, but recalled the following:

H. R. FREEMAN

M. L. BAKER

H. B. MC LAIN

L. E. GRAY

Interviewed on 9/15/75 Mesquite, Texas File # Dallas 89-43

by SA [redacted] SA [redacted] DHI:bhp Date dictated 9/16/75

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After the motorcade was formed, they proceeded from Love Field to downtown Dallas, Texas. JACKSON maintained his position 12 to 15 feet from the right rear of the Presidential vehicle during this trip. His specific assignment was to prevent bystanders from coming too close to the Presidential car. As the Presidential motorcade proceeded on Houston Street, and turned onto Elm Street, JACKSON was forced to drop back five or six feet from the Presidential vehicle because of the heavy crowds. As the Presidential vehicle was proceeding down Elm Street, and JACKSON was turning the corner from Houston to Elm Street, he heard a loud report which he first thought to be a motorcycle backfire. He looked at the Presidential car to see what the reaction was and observed Texas Governor JOHN CONNALLY turn to his right in the car. At that same time he heard a second noise and saw CONNALLY jerk to his right. At this point, JACKSON had just rounded the corner from Houston to Elm Street and he recognized the second noise as a definite gunshot. At this point, he was 15 to 20 feet away from the Presidential vehicle and he stopped his motorcycle in the street and looked toward the railroad overpass, directly in front of the Presidential car. He observed a Police Officer standing on the railroad tracks with his hands on his hips, looking toward the Presidential car. As this appeared normal, he then looked to his right and rear in the direction of the Texas School Book Building and the intersection of Houston and Elm Street and observed many bystanders falling to the ground. He looked toward the Presidential vehicle and at the same time heard a third shot fired. He observed President KENNEDY struck in the head above his right ear and the impact of the bullet exploded the top portion of his head, toward the left side of the Presidential vehicle. JACKSON immediately knew that KENNEDY had been hit and that the shot had been fired from his right rear. He turned and looked back at the intersection of Houston and Elm Street, however did not look up at the windows in any of the buildings. When he looked back toward the Presidential car, a Secret Service Agent was climbing onto the trunk of the vehicle and the car was picking up speed. JACKSON then told Officer CHANEY that they should go with the vehicle and CHANEY proceeded forward

to Chief CURRY's car and then cleared the way toward Parkland Hospital. JACKSON stayed in the same relative position with the Presidential car on the trip north on Stemmons Freeway to Parkland Hospital. After arriving at Parkland Hospital, he walked over to the Presidential car with a Secret Service Agent. Mrs. KENNEDY would not let them place President KENNEDY on a stretcher. He helped remove Texas Governor CONNALLY from the vehicle and placed him on a stretcher, and at this time, the Secret Service Agent convinced Mrs. KENNEDY to let them take the President into the hospital. As the President was being removed from the vehicle, the Secret Service Agent observed a massive wound on the President's left forehead and used his coat to cover the President's head as he was being transported into the hospital. President KENNEDY was taken directly to the Emergency Room and a Secret Service Agent assigned JACKSON to guard the Emergency Room door and not let anyone into the room except doctors and nurses. JACKSON remained in that position until President KENNEDY was pronounced dead and was then asked by a Secret Service Agent to assist in escorting the body back to Love Field. JACKSON provided a motorcycle escort for this trip to Love Field at that time.

JACKSON advised he had recognized three distinct noises at the time President KENNEDY was shot and could identify two as definitely being gunfire. He further stated he is positive the shot that struck President KENNEDY in the head was fired from his right rear, the vicinity of the Texas School Book Building.

JACKSON advised immediately following his release from duty on November 22, 1963, he prepared a detailed written account of the above incident and has maintained it in his possession since that time.

He advised he is a white male, 44 years of age, and at the time of this incident did not wear glasses and did not have any hearing impairment.